

HENRY DAVIS Interview  
By Bruce Pierini  
Sacramento Ethnic Communities Survey Project  
May 3, 1984

| <u>Time</u> | <u>Topic</u>   |
|-------------|--|
| 0:00        | Introduction.  |
| 0:29        | Early life in Haskell, Oklohoma.   |
| 2:47        | Family move to California.   |
| 5:56        | Family trip to Washington and California in a ton-and-a-half truck with thirteen people.             |
| 7:23        | First impressions of Perkins area in 1940 when family first arrived.                                 |
| 8:51        | Henry used to bicycle every morning to Sacramento High School which was about 8 miles each way.      |
| 9:12        | He remembers seriously fearing going to school with black people.                                    |
| 10:32       | He doesn't remember having to adjust a great deal to school here compared to Oklahoma or Washington. |
| 11:18       | First job on Ross Hop Ranch in Perkins.  |
| 12:20       | Employment chain of Oklahomans at Ross Ranch.  |
| 12:50       | Women did work in the harvesting of hops.  |
| 13:15       | Description of work on hop ranches.  |
| 15:13       | Does not remember music on the ranches.  |
| 15:54       | Remembers fighting two days after arrival because some boys called him an "Okie."                    |
| 16:50       | Doesn't remember much prejudice.   |
| 17:48       | Job as manager of hop ranch in Sloughhouse.  |

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|-------------|--|
| 19:00       | Service in the military, 1943-45.  |
| 20:30       | Sloughhouse hop ranch work.  |
| 21:34       | Doesn't remember southerners making sub-regional distinctions among themselves.  |
| 23:10       | He couldn't distinguish speech patterns particularly; He couldn't distinguish by simply seeing someone on the street.  |
| 24:40       | Southern cooking styles were brought here and maintained. He still enjoys those foods. He had to adjust to his present wife's non-Southern style of cooking. |
| 26:35       | Describes his work at Davis' Market at Sloughhouse for a six-month period.   |
| 27:33       | Describes customers and members of other ethnic groups in the Sloughhouse area.  |
| 28:30       | Describes shipping hops elsewhere from Sacramento.   |
| 29:26       | He sold store to his brother and father; The store stayed in the family until 1979.  |
| 30:39       | End Side A   |

Side B

|      |   |
|------|---|
| 0:00 | Davis' Sloughhouse Grocery Store.   |
| 1:00 | Work as a lumberhand at New Home Building Supply Co.  |
| 1:24 | Work as a realtor; Since 1974 has been working for a private, non-profit, federally-funded corporation which aids rural families in building their own homes. |

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4:07 Oklahoma traditions he continues here are hunting and fishing.

4:45 Dances at Will's Point on Auburn Boulevard during the late 1940s and early 1950s.

7:58 He likes Sacramento; Though he lives in the city he continues to associate with people in rural areas.

9:50 Henry is satisfied with his success; credits it to more affluent times rather than California, per se.

11:15 Doesn't recall being without food when growing up.

12:03 The entire family continues to can fruits and vegetables here -- a tradition he remembers his family bringing with them from Oklahoma.

14:00 Important values from his childhood: close family, high moral standard, hard work ethic.

16:11 Changes in educational levels in his family and educational expectations.

18:05 END OF INTERVIEW